

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1208

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, SEDU, HA

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION PROJECT IN HAITI: CHISS

1. AS DEPT. AWARE, INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SEVERAL INNOVATIVE PROJECTS OF GREAT POTENTIAL LONG TERM VALUE IN HAITI FOR WHICH IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FIND FUNDING ELSEWHERE. IMPORTANT AMONG THESE IS 4 YEAR LINGUISTIC PROJECT TO EVALUATE WHETHER SPECIALLY DESIGNED CREOLE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION CAN ENABLE CREOLE-SPEAKING CHILDREN TO COMPREHEND, CONCEPTUALIZE, AND EXPRESS THEMSELVES MORE FREELY THAN UNDER CURRENT SYSTEM OF FRENCH-LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION. THIS PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED BY CHISS, HAITI'S ONLY SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, HEADED BY DR. HUBERT DERONCERAY, A LEADING SCHOLAR AND FORMER DEPUTY EDUCATION MINISTER.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, BOOKKEEPING IRREGULARITIES DISCOVERED IN EARLY 1975 LED FORD FOUNDATION TO WITHDRAW ITS SUPPORT FROM CHISS FOR THIS PROJECT, AND IAF, ALTHOUGH EQUALLY TROUBLED BY THE AUDIT RESULTS, HAS CONTINUED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR CHISS WHILE AUDITORS CONTINUE EXAMINATION OF RECORDS.

3. I AM NOW INFORMED BY IAF REP VISITING HAITI, LARRY LEIGHTON, THAT, ALTHOUGH AUDIT STILL INCOMPLETE AND SOME CANCELLED CHECKS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE BY NATIONAL BANK (BNRH), IAF IS ON POINT OF TERMINATING SUPPORT TO CHISS AT YEAR'S END AND TRANS-

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FERRING ADMINISTRATION OF PROJECT FOR BALANCE OF SCHOOL YEAR TO A

RESPONSIBLE HAITIAN SCHOLAR STILL TO BE SELECTED. PRESUMABLY  
IAF WOULD CONCLUDE ALL SUPPORT BY JUNE 1976.

4. PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT TO ARGUE AGAINST IAF JUDGMENTS  
AS TO HOW IT SHOULD PROCEED TO DISENGAGE FROM AN UNHAPPY SITUATION  
(INVOLVING PECADILLOS, IT SEEMS, BY DERONCERAY), BUT TO MAKE A  
PLEA THAT:

A) IAF PROVIDE DERONCERAY WITH OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND  
TO CHARGES OF AUDITING IRREGULARITIES BEFORE FINAL DECISION IS MADE  
TO TERMINATE CHISS CONNECTION. FAILURE TO REACH COMMON IAF/CHISS  
UNDERSTANDING ON AUDITING CRITERIA AT START OF PROJECT MAY BE  
EXTENUATING FACTOR, WHILE BNRH REFUSAL THUS FAR TO FURNISH CANCELLED  
CHECKS HAS EVIDENTLY IMPAIRED CHISS ABILITY TO ESTABLISH RECORD  
OF EXPENDITURES;

B) IAF ACTIVELY SEEK INTERIM SOLUTION WHICH WOULD PERMIT  
CHISS TO REMAIN AS ADMINISTRATOR OF PROJECT AT LEAST UNTIL END OF  
ACADEMIC YEAR. NO OTHER RESEARCH ORGANIZATION COMPARABLE TO  
CHISS EXISTS IN HAITI; DERONCERAY APPEARS TO HAVE LEARNED HIS  
LESSON AND IS PREPARED, WE UNDERSTAND, TO MAKE RESTITUTION FOR  
UNACCOUNTED FUNDS; AND TERMINATION OF IAF SUPPORT COULD WELL  
SPELL END OF CHISS AT TIME WHEN ITS CAPACITY TO PERFORM SOCIAL/  
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IS BEING STRENGTHENED BY RECRUITMENT OF YOUNG  
HAITIANS EDUCATED ABROAD.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS, IN HIS  
CAPACITY AS DIRECTOR OF IAF, COMMUNICATE SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE  
TO IAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DYALL, PARTICULARLY TO URGE THAT ANY  
IRREVOCABLE DECISIONS ON CHISS BE DEFERRED UNTIL FULL AND BALANCED  
EVALUATION OF CHISS PERFORMANCES CAN BE COMPLETED.  
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